

Message Text

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HQ USAF WASHDC
CNO WASHDC
DLA CAMERON STATION VA
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STATE FOR EUR/RPM; DEF FOR ASD(MRA&L-SD), JCS-J4 AND PASS
TO ADVISER TO THE SECRETARY AND DEPUTY SECRETARY OF
DEFENSE FOR NATO AFFAIRS (AMB KOMER); DLA FOR DLA-S

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MARR NATO
SUBJECT: MEETING OF THE GROUP OF NATIONAL DIRECTORS ON
NATO CODIFICATION, 9-10 MAY 1978, NATO HQS, BRUSSELS,
BELGIUM

REF: AC/135-A/34(REVISED), 26 APRIL :8
THE FOLLOWING REPORT, PREPARED BY MR. H. B. ALTIZER, US
MEMBER ON SUBJECT GROUP, FORWARDS COMMENTS KEYED TO SPECI-
FIC MAJOR ITEMS ON THE REFERENCE AGENDA.

THE US REP (ALTIZER) INVITED THE GROUP TO HOLD ITS NEXT
MEETING IN THE US (BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN) FOR THE PURPOSE
OF THE US ADVISING THE GROUP OF THE US FIVE YEAR PLAN FOR
CODIFICATION AND DEFENSE INTEGRATED DATA SYSTEM AND THE
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RESULTS OF THE FEDERAL PUBLICATION STUDY ON SUPPLY CATALOGS
AND RELATED DOCUMENTS.

II. APPROVAL OF DECISION SHEET OF LAST MEETING. US REP
PROPOSED THAT "SILENCE PROCEDURE" NOT BE APPLIED TO DECI-
SION SHEETS NOT YET FORMALLY APPROVED BY THE DIRECTORS.THE
PROPOSAL WAS APPROVED. THE US OPPOSED A POLICY RECOMMENDA-

TION OF NORWAY CONCERNING HOW NON-NATO COUNTRY CODES WOULD BE ESTABLISHED. ALL COUNTRIES AGREED EXCEPT FOR THE FUTURE CONFIRMATION BY NORWAY.

VI. SUPPORT OF INTEROPERABILITY. AT THE PREVIOUS AC/135 MEETING, CANADA ACCEPTED THE PILOT COUNTRY ASSIGNMENT TO SET UP A PROGRAM TO ACCEPT AND COLLECT MANUFACTURERS' REFERENCE NUMBERS ASSIGNED NATO STOCK NUMBERS (NSNS) FROM ALL NATO COUNTRIES. THIS ASSIGNMENT INVOLVED THE CENTRAL SCREENING OF ALL REFERENCE NUMBERS FOR DUPLICATION AND A CROSS REFERENCE LIST OF ALL REFERENCE NUMBERS SCREENED. CANADA HAS COMPLETED THE PROJECT AND REPORTED THE RESULTS. THE SCREENING RESULTED IN 108,000 DUPLICATES WITHIN THE TEN COUNTRIES THAT PARTICIPATED IN THE PROGRAM. IN ADDITION, THE US PERFORMED A SUPPLEMENTAL SCREEN AND IDENTIFIED AN ADDITIONAL 102,000 DUPLICATES. THESE DUPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED TO EACH COUNTRY FOR NECESSARY ACTION. IN ADDITION, THE US PROPOSED THAT PANEL A, WHICH WAS APPROVED BY THE GROUP, STUDY THE VALUE OF MAINTAINING A CROSS REFERENCE LIST FOR NATO FORCES WHICH WOULD IDENTIFY THESE DUPLICATIONS. PANEL A WAS ALSO REQUESTED TO WORK ON THE ELIMINATION OF DUPLICATE NSNS WITHIN NATO COUNTRIES' SUPPLY SYSTEMS.

VII. ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATO CENTRAL BUREAU. THE GROUP HAD AGREED AT THE LAST MEETING TO ACCEPT THE US PROPOSAL TO UNCLASSIFIED

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ESTABLISH A TASK GROUP CONSISTING OF FIVE COUNTRIES (UK, US, NORWAY, FRG AND NETHERLANDS) TO STUDY THE ADVANTAGES, WORK AND STRUCTURAL ORGANIZATION OF A NATO CENTRAL CODIFICATION BUREAU. IN ADDITION, THE US PRESENTED A STUDY PLAN FOR THE TASK GROUP THAT WAS ALSO APPROVED. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE REVIEW WAS DIRECTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL ARMAMENTS DIRECTORSH' NEDI VTHE GROUP AT THAT TIME RESTRICTED THE STUDY TO AN IDENTIFICATION OF THE FUNC-

TION OF A CENTRAL BUREAU. THE TASK GROUP PRESENTED A RE-

PORT OF THEIR FINDINGS. THE US PRESENTED A COUNTER PROPOSAL WHICH INCLUDED A MISSION STATEMENT AND A MORE COMPREHENSIVE STATEMENT OF CENTRAL BUREAU FUNCTIONS. NORWAY RECOMMENDED THAT THE US AND CANADA COMBINE THE STUDY GROUP REPORT (AC/135-D/438) AND THE US PAPER AND FURNISH COPIES TO THE DIRECTORS IN TIME FOR STUDY BEFORE THE NEXT MEETING. ALL COUNTRIES AGREED TO THIS.

IX. LIAISON WITH THE SENIOR MILITARY LOGISTICIANS CONFERENCE, AND X. TASK FORCES 8 AND 9 RECOMMENDATIONS. THE SECRETARY REPORTED THAT IN LIAISON ACTIVITIES WITH THE

SENIOR NATO LOGISTICIANS CONFERENCE AND OTHER NATO ORGANIZATIONS THE CAPABILITIES OF AC/135 ARE NOT WELL UNDERSTOOD. THE US STATED THAT CODIFICATION WAS A BASIC TOOL REQUIRED TO PURSUE SUCCESSFULLY THE PROGRAMS OF STANDARDIZATION, COMMONALITY, INTEROPERABILITY AND RATIONALIZATION, AND THAT THE AC/135 DIRECTORS SHOULD MAKE THIS FACT KNOWN TO THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN OTHER PROGRAM AREAS. THIS NEED WAS DISCUSSED IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL, AND THE GROUP OF DIRECTORS:

- 1. STRESSED THE NEED FOR INCREASED EFFORTS BY NATIONAL DIRECTORS IN SUPPORT OF NATO STANDARDIZATION AND INTER-

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OPERABILITY ACTIVITIES;

- 2. REQUESTED IN THIS CONTEXT THE SECRETARY TO PRODUCE A WORKING PAPER ELABORATING THE PROBLEM AREAS TO BE DISCUSSED BY THE GROUP OF DIRECTORS;

- 3. ENDORSED THE STATEMENT BY THE HEAD OF THE MATERIEL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS SECTION THAT GREATER EMPHASIS SHOULD BE PLACED ON POLICY ISSUES RELATING TO THE SERVICES WHICH COULD BE PROVIDED BY THE NATO CODIFICATION SYSTEM IN SUPPORT OF NATO FORCES;

- 4. INVITED ALL NATIONAL DIRECTORS TO OBTAIN AT NATIONAL

LEVEL MORE SUPPORT FOR NATO CODIFICATION MATTERS;

- 5. AGREED THAT AC/135 SHOULD MAKE KNOWN ITS WORK AND EXISTENCE TO OTHER BODIES (NATO AND NATIONAL).

XII. REPORT TO CNAD AND PROGRAMME OF WORK. THE GROUP
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REVIEWED THE DRAFT REPORT TO CNAD AND PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR AC/135. THE US RECOMMENDED THAT THE FOLLOWING THREE LONG RANGE TASKS BE INCLUDED IN THE REPORT TO IDENTIFY MORE CLEARLY THE GROUP'S OBJECTIVES:

- A. DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A METHOD TO PROVIDE CODIFICATION SERVICES IN SUPPORT OF NATO FORCES;
- B. DEVELOP NATO CODIFICATION SUPPORT THROUGH THE NATIONAL LEVEL BY THE NATIONAL DIRECTORS.
- C. STUDY THE EXPANSION OF THE NATO CODIFICATION SYSTEM BY INCLUDING NON-MANUFACTURER REFERENCE NUMBERS.

WITH THE ABOVE ADDITIONS, THE REPORT WAS APPROVED AND WILL BE PREPARED IN FINAL FORM FOR SUBMISSION TO CNAD.

XIII. ANY OTHER BUSINESS. AT THE DECEMBER 1977 MEETING, THE DIRECTORS HAD APPROVED A PLANNING SYSTEM AND REPORTING REQUIREMENT WHICH HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE HANDBOOK ON CODIFICATION. THE US PROPOSED THAT PANEL A DEVELOP ANY NECESSARY PLANS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SYSTEM AND THAT IT BE USED TO DEVELOP THE FY 1979 REPORT TO CNAD. THE GROUP AGREED TO THE US PROPOSAL.

XIV. DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING. THE DIRECTORS NOTED THE US DIRECTOR'S INVITATION TO HOLD THE NEXT MEETING OF AC/135 IN THE US (BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN) ON 22 OCTOBER 1978. A FINAL DECISION WILL BE FORTHCOMING 1 JUNE 1978.
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